

## 5-Year Review Short Form

**Species Reviewed:** Osterhout milkvetch (*Astragalus osterhoutii*) and Penland Beardtongue (*Penstemon penlandii*)

**Federal Register Notice Announcing Initiation of this Review:** May 27, 2016.  
Endangered and Threatened wildlife and plants; 5-year status reviews of 21 species in the Mountain-Prairie Region (81 FR 33698).

**Lead Region:** Region 6, Division of Ecological Services, Colorado Field Office – Grand Junction, Ann Timberman, Assistant Field Supervisor, (970)-628-7181.

**Current Classification:** Both species are listed as Endangered

**Current Recovery Priority Number:** Osterhout milkvetch has a recovery priority number of 5C; indicating a high degree of threat and low recovery potential due to conflict from development. Penland beardtongue has a recovery priority number of 17 indicating a low degree of threat and a low recovery potential.

**Methodology used to complete this review:** This review was completed on July 2, 2019 primarily by biologists in the Colorado Field Office-Grand Junction. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado Threatened and Endangered Plant Species Monitoring Program Status Report was used as the basis for this review (BLM 2018).

**Review Summary:** The Osterhout milkvetch and Penland beardtongue were listed as endangered on July 13, 1989 (54 FR 29658), primarily due to activities related to the proposed development of the Muddy Creek Reservoir and dam, recreation, mining, and geographically isolated populations. A recovery plan for both species was prepared on September 30, 1992. We are currently in the process of clarifying the existing recovery criteria; the expected completion of the clarification is FY 2019. There is limited information available for these two species. Since these species were listed, the BLM has established monitoring protocols for both Osterhout milkvetch and Penland beardtongue in order to determine their population trends, both at the population level and range-wide (BLM 2018). Estimates of average range-wide density (plants/m<sup>2</sup>) have remained stable between 2011 and 2018 for Osterhout milkvetch (BLM 2018). The BLM documented decreasing trends across all five sites in their study system in 2018 for Penland beardtongue (BLM 2018). However, further review and analysis of the BLM's report, as well as other information, is needed to better understand what this information means for the resiliency, redundancy, and representation (collectively the 3Rs) for these two species, and how the current status of the species relates to the clarified recovery criteria that are currently under development. We are not aware of any other new information that informs the status of these two species at this time.

**Recommendations on species status:** Given the limited new information available about both species that is yet to be analyzed, and the ongoing effort to clarify recovery criteria for the species, at this time, we do not have sufficient information and analyses to completely assess Osterhout milkvetch and Penland beardtongue as it relates to the five factors under the Endangered Species Act, and are not able to provide an updated recommendation of the status of these species at this time. We will continue to assess the status of each species as we are better able to evaluate their long-term viability in the wild with respect to the 3 Rs, and as it relates as it relates to the clarified recovery criteria once completed. Therefore, we are recommending no change in the status of either species at this time and will reevaluate the status in the 5-year review in 2022.

**Recommendation for Future Actions:**

- Clarification of recovery criteria, expected FY19
- Species Status Assessment and in-depth 5-year review, expected 2022
- Update recovery plan, expected 2024

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Field Supervisor**

**Approve:** Ann Timberman

**Ann Timberman**  
**Assistant Supervisor**  
**Colorado Ecological Services Field Office**

**Date:** 7/3/19

**Literature Cited**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 2018. Threatened and Endangered Plant Monitoring Status Report. Pp. 8-10; 18-20.